

Applicant : Zuniga et al.
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REMARKS

Claims 1-3, 6-15 and 18-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,068,548 ("Vote"). Claims 4, 5, 16, 17 and 25-30 were rejected as obvious over Vote, without a secondary reference.

Vote does not constitute prior art under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). Specifically, as shown by the attached declaration by Steven M. Zuniga under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131, Applicant's claimed invention was conceived and actually reduced to practice prior to the filing date of Vote on December 17, 1997.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the pending rejection. Enclosed is a Transmittal Letter and Petition for Automatic Extension. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/19/06

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